THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) INS Vikrant is an old ship which, however, is continuing to serve the Indian Navy.

(b) All necessary steps are being pursued for meeting the replacement needs of the ageing aircraft carrier.

Manufacture of Light Combat Aircraft

2532. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's own Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was rolled out successfully recently; and

(b) if so, by when the programme of manufacturing these Light Combat Aircraft will be completed and when those aircraft are expected to be inducted into the Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. The first LCA was rolled out from the assembly hangar on 17 Nov. 1995.

(b) The first production version of LCA is expected to be ready for induction into the Air Force in the year 2002, after the completion of flight trials of prototypes and appropriate investments in augumenting the production infrastructure.

Industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir

2533. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an office of the National Small Industries Corporation has been opened in Jammu to provide for accelerated industrial development of the troubletorn State of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what other steps have been taken for industrial development in the State, including the development of small industries indicating the schemes launched for promoting such industrialisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Small Industries Corporation has set up an office in Jammu. The Corporation has also established a Raw Material Depot for supply of scarce raw materials like aluminium, oils, copper, paraffin wax, wire rod, plastic granuales to SSI units and made arrangements for training of entrepreneurs. It has already organised a training programme for 25 prospective and present SSI unit-holders. The Corporation will also provide the following facilities:—

(i) finance for purchase of machinery on Hire Purchase and lease basis and for raw material/working capital;

(ii) bill discounting facility to SSI units; and

(iii) marketing facility for SSI products and single point registration for Government purchase.

(b) For the promotion of industries in the State, the following package of incentive has been announced:—

— 30% Capital Investment subsidy on machinery, land and building, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30 lakhs.

— 100% subsidy on the cost of generating sets ranging in capacity from 100 KVA to 1 KVA.

— 5% rebate of interest on working capital.

— Income tax holiday for 5 years.